

PROGRESS LESSON OF THE "FOLLIES"

Mere Burlesque, But of a Kind That Marks New Departure.

"TRUANTS" BREAKS THE TARIFF LAWS

Compelled to Pay Duty on Too Heavy a Weight of Ideas.

By J. R. HILDEBRAND.

Once more the theater menu had an international flavor. Again Washington gave its unqualified indorsement to the American product.

The passing of curiosity in the French brand of entertainment, embodied in the "Follies," also marked a passing of considerable patronage. Thinking theatergoers were disposed to treat the English course, found in "The Truants," with more consideration, though it was labeled a comedy, and gave it an indorsement qualified by a few kindly suggestions. Those who went to see an Americanized product, "The Boys and Betty," went to laugh—and they laughed. True to its Yankee brand its aim was well defined, and it hit the bull's-eye. No cross here.

There is danger of passing offerings of the "Follies" type lightly by and overlooking their significance. They mean something. Mere burlesque? Yes, but such burlesque as could hardly have been presented ten years ago. They do not class very high. But in their class they forge to the very front of theatrical achievement. They constitute one of the milestones set all along the line to mark the progress the stage of today has made within the memory of the youngest theatergoer who should be permitted to attend "shows" of their type. They are shows, shows in the class with the circus. It is only when they fail to attain the standard of a well-ordered circus that the public is likely to register a protest.

It is not the comedian, called a clown under a canvas, nor the acrobat who pelted the same in the saw-dust ring, nor even the sensations and thrills that are objectionable, but the appeal to prurience. A comparison of the new edition of the "Follies" with those of last year indicate that public opinion has scored another victory. Perhaps by the time the 1909 concoction is ready this same force shall have pulled a clean slate and the lid be clamped down on the least suggestion of impropriety. The "revue" will be thoroughly Americanized and some of our burlesque managers will be forced to keep space of the times.

Felt in Burlesque.

That this influence has already been felt was shown in the burlesque offering at the Gayety last week. "The Girls of the Moulou Rouge," compiled by Willard Holcomb, marked a distinct departure from the groove in which burlesque houses have chosen to slide aimlessly along. But two objections could be registered against this very unusual production, its name and a dance, both copied after a show made notorious by the dance.

Those who went to the Belasco to see a comedy felt they were in the right church but the wrong pew. This English importation should not be compelled to pay duty for the surplus of ideas. If the author thinks he can combine "heavy" drama and light comedy in one theatrical meal it is not for us to discourage a new line of endeavor. But in "The Truants" he has not succeeded in doing this without hopelessly dividing the thread of his story and the interest of his auditors. The repeat is exceedingly palatable but indigestible. Only a dramatic physician to tell that the more the play that any way you take it something north of the line is bound to go, but the limitations of three hours is almost as ironclad as a printed page. Modern society can't be reformed within the space of either.

Leaving out of consideration certain demands of dramatic unity—that requirement may be only academic—there is still a lack of congruity between the serious element and the comedy. The fact that the situations are of so much genuine dramatic worth only serves to make laughter more ill-timed.

An Americanized Show.

"The Boys and Betty" can trace the roots of its family tree back to France, but there is no more of the Parisian left in its composition than in "The Old Homestead" or "In Old Kentucky."

It owes its success to the same element that made the two plays enduring. Small wonder that managers who spend thousands on elaborate scenic devices and costly wardrobes watch the crowds flock to see such offerings as that of Miss Cahill and pull their hats in despair. No, there is no guessing public taste. But simple, homelike themes, when they are not spoiled in the telling, seem sure of a hearing as long as the story endures. The story of this play hinges around the pretensions of a genius, too super-sensitive to give thought to the simple things of life. The theme has not been left untouched, but it is certainly unacknowledged. The author has taken advantage of the fact that a wife gets most of the sympathy to portray in Betty, a character pretty sure to grip an American audience by the heart strings, especially when Betty is played by Miss Marie Cahill.

The play is not all plot. It is a type of melody-drama, once common to the American stage, but today seldom seen except in the popular priced houses. It offers a maximum of melody and a minimum of melodrama. Not only did the play serve to awaken tender memories of a type of entertainment almost moss grown, but served to introduce to a younger generation Eugene Cowles and William G. Stewart, operative stars of a generation ago. The most delicious and delicate piece of foolery was the "Tetrazini" number, in which this pair burlesqued their own work of years past. Cowles was recalled again and again after his "basso profundo" exhibition from one of the rarest mixtures of lingering fondness and convulsed laughter that the emotions of a theatergoer ever tell him to.

The same remarking back to first principles characterized "The Boys and Betty" and "The Truants," save that the latter hearkened too far and too oft.

**HOUR FOR CONCERT
TOMORROW CHANGED**

The concert by the Marine Band at the Marine Barracks tomorrow will begin at 2:30 in the afternoon instead of at the usual time, as the band has been detailed to attend the opening of the D. A. R. Continental Congress and will not be at the barracks at the regular time.

FRANCIS WILSON HAS NEW COMEDY

Amateurs Will Hold Boards at Belasco and Columbia Theaters.

"When Knights Were Bold," an entertaining comedy by Charles Marlow, will bring Francis Wilson to the National for an engagement here this week.

The part of the young Englishman, Sir Guy de Vere, who is perfectly satisfied with the twentieth century and cares nothing for the days of his ancestors, is said to fit the comedian perfectly. Sir Guy's object in life is to be comfortable and have a jolly good time. Unfortunately, he is harassed by a lot of relatives, who try to force him to live up to the traditions of his ancestors, and to perpetuate the glories of the de Veres.

Charles Frohman has surrounded Mr. Wilson with a company of capable players. There will be but one matinee, that on Saturday.

BELASCO—"About Thebes."

Beginning tomorrow night the Washington Dramatic Club will play a week's engagement of Mrs. Albert Clifford Barney's play "About Thebes," at the Belasco Theater.

The receipts of the performances are to be devoted to various local charities. The play has been staged by Mrs. Barney, assisted by Percy Leach, a professional stage director. The incidental music for the piece was written by Harry Howard, and Mrs. Lawrence Townsend, wife of the former minister to Belgium, assisted with the musical setting.

The play opens with a scene in the desert, with an American tourist party on the road to Thebes. The first scene depicts the break of day on the desert. The second shows the "trippers" on the Tomb of the Kings, and the last act depicts the ensemble of Nile maidens, American girls, mystics, Cook's guides, donkey guides, spirits of the Orient, temple maids, and dancers, and the Oriental entourage in the palace of the Khedive, where, to cap all, a sort of vaudeville entertainment gives everybody an opportunity to do a stunt.

CHASE'S—Vaudeville.

Chase's this week presents "The Van Dyck," Willy Pantzer and company, Bert Levy, Augusta Glose, Wilbur Mack, and Nella Walker. Robert Henry Hodge and company, the Tom Jack Trio, and "The Jealous Fisherman," by the American Vitagraph.

"The Van Dyck" is the Arnold Daly sketch played in London by Beerbohm Tree from an adaptation by Cosmo Gordon Lennox from the French of Eugene Poirier Perinque, Harrison Hunter is cast in the principal role and a special scenic production surrounds the company.

Willy Pantzer, a German novelty entertainer, will be the added attraction. Bert Levy, the cartoonizing raconteur, presents a departure from his original lines. "The Girl and the Fox" will be laughably exploited by Wilbur Mack and Nella Walker.

ACADEMY—"McFadden's Flats."

"McFadden's Flats" has been a substantial success.

Although in its fifteenth year the piece is said to be just as engrossing and entertaining as ever. This season, however, will witness an entirely new production from a scene, humorous, musical, novelty, standpoint. Burton and Wiswell, who will shape the destinies of the play this season, offer a new cast, elaborate stage settings, original special features, surprises, electrical effects and sensations seldom seen in one production. The cast is large, employing the services of sixty talented people, including a beauty chorus of thirty fair damsels, well versed in the art of singing and dancing. Ten song hits have been written for the piece.

LYCEUM—"Merry Burlesquers."

Burlesque, farce comedy, and vaudeville is included in Miner's "Merry Burlesquers" at the New Lyceum this week.

A brand new burlesque in two acts will be the feature, but there will be enough vaudeville interspersed to please lovers of variety; among the acts will be the Two Franciscos, Sherman and De Forest in the "Jay Circus," the Millership Sisters, and Harry Fox and Company in a comedy playlet entitled, "Artistic Nonsense."

Harry Fox, whose comedy work in seasons past has created wide attention, will handle the principal comedy part. The musical numbers are tuneful and of a high order.

GAYETY—Fred Irwin's "Big Show."

The return to the Gayety Theater, the week beginning tomorrow, of Fred Irwin's Big Show will be welcome news in many quarters.

This show has been in the past Johnny-on-the-spot in the way of burlesque entertainment, and this year's promises are favorable. The Imperial Sextet, a program of superior vaudeville acts, will be the feature.

ALL THIS WEEK

ONLY MATINEE SATURDAY

The only theater in Washington offering exclusively American and foreign stars of the first rank

PRICES, 50c, 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.50.

CHARLES FROHMAN PRESENTS

FRANCIS WILSON

In His Greatest Laughing Success

CHARLES MARLOW'S COMEDY

When Knights Were Bold

A Play of a Thousand Laughs.

Next Week—Mat. Wed. & Sat.—Seats Thurs.

GRACE VAN STUDDIFORD

In the Smith and de Koven Real Comic Opera

The Golden Butterfly

Direct from the Broadway Theater, N. Y.

MONDAY, MAY 3. OPENING OF SUMMER SEASON

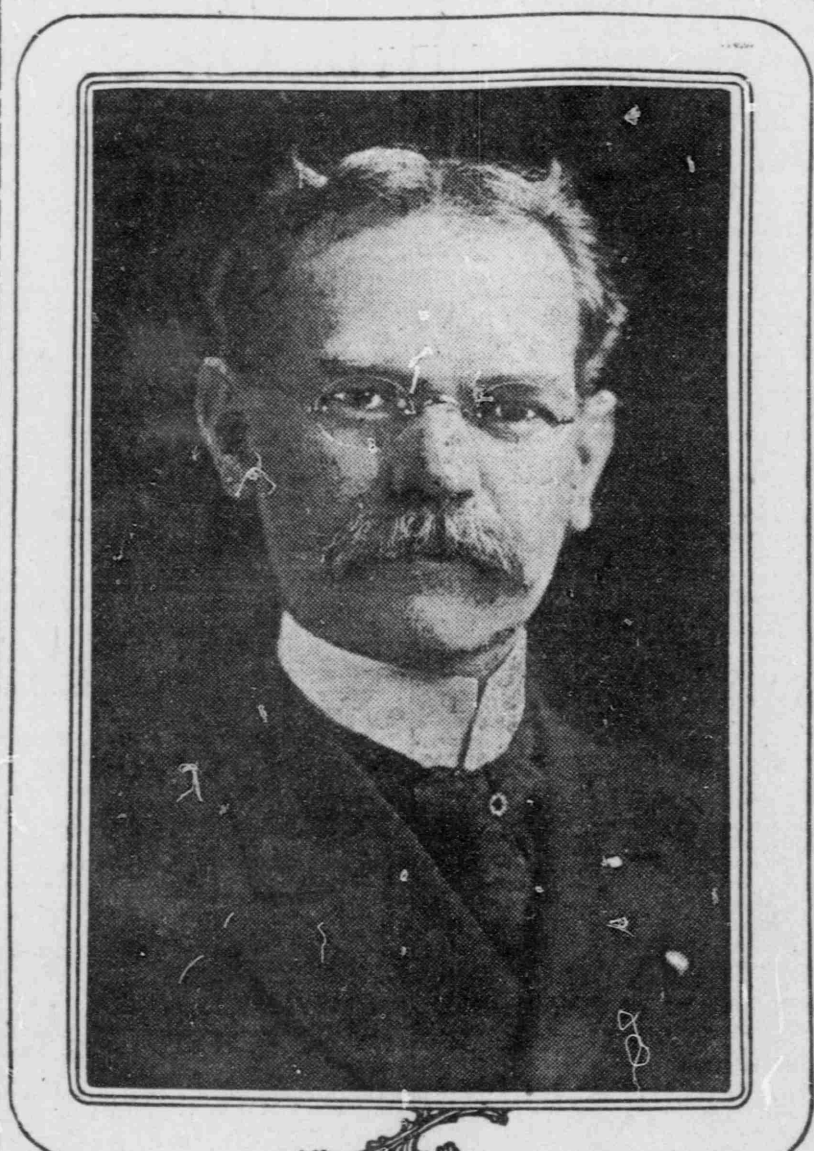
RETURN ABORN OPERA COMPANY

Presenting de Koven and Smith's

ROBIN HOOD OLD FAVORITES

Season Subscription Books Now Open.

TELLS ALL ABOUT CANAL



CLAUDE N. BENNETT.

Who Will Appear at the Columbia Theater Tonight.

"The Construction of the Panama Canal" will be the subject of an illustrated lecture to be given this evening at the Columbia by Claude N. Bennett, manager of the Congressional Information Bureau of this city.

Mr. Bennett spent more than a month on the isthmus gathering the material. One of the most interesting features of the entertainment is its illustrating. Not alone has Mr. Bennett provided original views for projection upon the canvas, but by means of moving pictures is enabled to show the wonderful machinery in full operation. Many of his pictures were taken during the last visit of President (then Secretary) Taft to the zone and follow him throughout his entire tour of inspection.

In deference to official requests, Mr. Bennett will repeat the lecture Wednesday evening at the same theater.

much invigorating humor, picturesque entertainment. The management announces that the company will be adequate throughout.

An interesting series of moving pictures will be shown at the Academy

concert tonight and in addition a number of pleasing specialties will be offered.

Walter Sondheimler will be on hand with new comic songs and George Turner will appear in a vocal novelty. An added attraction will be the appearance of Miller and Miller, well known in vaudeville and musical comedy circles, in a humorous comedy sketch.

Tom Moore's concert at the Gayety tonight offers a string of feature subjects such as "The Bad Miner," "On the War Path," "The Crackers Bride," "The Dog Snatcher," and "The Tramp."

The specialties include George Turner, Jack Colt, Gordon and Bennett, Jim Flynn, and Jesse Viehmyer.

Manager Stein, of the New Masonic Temple Auditorium, will inaugurate a new and novel series of motion pictures beginning at 8:15 o'clock tonight, and continuing every night except Wednesday.

These motion pictures have not been seen in Washington or the East, and have been secured by special arrangements with the Chicago Film Exchange.

They are new and comprise interesting travel pictures besides motion views of an educational and humorous character. Three times weekly the scenes

will be changed. The arrangement is for an indefinite period.

At the Belasco Theater tonight the Philadelphia Constabulary Band will render another popular concert, with a program entirely different from that given last Sunday.

These "Little Brown Brothers" were a feature of the inauguration parade and attracted large audiences at the concerts given at the Pension Office.

This popularity has increased, as was proven by the capacity audience which they attracted last Sunday, and led to this last concert to be given tonight.

Thirteen are singing and ten are playing so superbly. The men are all enlisted men of the constabulary, an organization of officers by Americans, and President Taft is still to the "big governor," who created the band.

One of the features of the concert tonight will be a "Grand Pastoral and Hunting Scene," by Koenemann, a descriptive composition which will be added to by stage mechanical effects and electrical devices representing the storm.

Manager Stein, of the New Masonic Temple Auditorium, will inaugurate a new and novel series of motion pictures beginning at 8:15 o'clock tonight, and continuing every night except Wednesday.

These motion pictures have not been seen in Washington or the East, and have been secured by special arrangements with the Chicago Film Exchange.

They are new and comprise interesting travel pictures besides motion views of an educational and humorous character. Three times weekly the scenes

will be changed. The arrangement is for an indefinite period.

At the Belasco Theater tonight the Philadelphia Constabulary Band will render another popular concert, with a program entirely different from that given last Sunday.

These "Little Brown Brothers" were a feature of the inauguration parade and attracted large audiences at the concerts given at the Pension Office.

This popularity has increased, as was proven by the capacity audience which they attracted last Sunday, and led to this last concert to be given tonight.

Thirteen are singing and ten are playing so superbly. The men are all enlisted men of the constabulary, an organization of officers by Americans, and President Taft is still to the "big governor," who created the band.

One of the features of the concert tonight will be a "Grand Pastoral and Hunting Scene," by Koenemann, a descriptive composition which will be added to by stage mechanical effects and electrical devices representing the storm.

Manager Stein, of the New Masonic Temple Auditorium, will inaugurate a new and novel series of motion pictures beginning at 8:15 o'clock tonight, and continuing every night except Wednesday.

These motion pictures have not been seen in Washington or the East, and have been secured by special arrangements with the Chicago Film Exchange.

They are new and comprise interesting travel pictures besides motion views of an educational and humorous character. Three times weekly the scenes

will be changed. The arrangement is for an indefinite period.

At the Belasco Theater tonight the Philadelphia Constabulary Band will render another popular concert, with a program entirely different from that given last Sunday.

These "Little Brown Brothers" were a feature of the inauguration parade and attracted large audiences at the concerts given at the Pension Office.

This popularity has increased, as was proven by the capacity audience which they attracted last Sunday, and led to this last concert to be given tonight.

Thirteen are singing and ten are playing so superbly. The men are all enlisted men of the constabulary, an organization of officers by Americans, and President Taft is still to the "big governor," who created the band.

One of the features of the concert tonight will be a "Grand Pastoral and Hunting Scene," by Koenemann, a descriptive composition which will be added to by stage mechanical effects and electrical devices representing the storm.

Manager Stein, of the New Masonic Temple Auditorium, will inaugurate a new and novel series of motion pictures beginning at 8:15 o'clock tonight, and continuing every night except Wednesday.

These motion pictures have not been seen in Washington or the East, and have been secured by special arrangements with the Chicago Film Exchange.

They are new and comprise interesting travel pictures besides motion views of an educational and humorous character. Three times weekly the scenes

will be changed. The arrangement is for an indefinite period.

At the Belasco Theater tonight the Philadelphia Constabulary Band will render another popular concert, with a program entirely different from that given last Sunday.

These "Little Brown Brothers" were a feature of the inauguration parade and attracted large audiences at the concerts given at the Pension Office.

This popularity has increased, as was proven by the capacity audience which they attracted last Sunday, and led to this last concert to be given tonight.

Thirteen are singing and ten are playing so superbly. The men are all enlisted men of the constabulary, an organization of officers by Americans, and President Taft is still to the "big governor," who created the band.

One of the features of the concert tonight will be a "Grand Pastoral and Hunting Scene," by Koenemann, a descriptive composition which will be added to by stage mechanical effects and electrical devices representing the storm.

Manager Stein, of the New Masonic Temple Auditorium, will inaugurate a new and novel series of motion pictures beginning at 8:15 o'clock tonight, and continuing every night except Wednesday.

These motion pictures have not been seen in Washington or the East, and have been secured by special arrangements with the Chicago Film Exchange.

They are new and comprise interesting travel pictures besides motion views of an educational and humorous character. Three times weekly the scenes

will be changed. The arrangement is for an indefinite period.

At the Belasco Theater tonight the Philadelphia Constabulary Band will render another popular concert, with a program entirely different from that given last Sunday.

These "Little Brown Brothers" were a feature of the inauguration parade and attracted large audiences at the concerts given at the Pension Office.

This popularity has increased, as was proven by the capacity audience which they attracted last Sunday, and led to this last concert to be given tonight.

Thirteen are singing and ten are playing so superbly. The men are all enlisted men of the constabulary, an organization of officers by Americans, and President Taft is still to the "big governor," who created the band.

SOTHERN WILL PLAY IN CLASSIC ROLES

"The Whirlpool" to Make First Appearance Next Monday Night.

As the time for the engagement of E. H. Sothern draws near, interest in his appearance becomes intensified, and his appearance at the Belasco Theater promises to be a feature of the dramatic season.

Sothern presents a repertoire of classics, appearing Monday and Tuesday nights as Richelieu, Wednesday and Thursday nights as Francois Villon in "If I Were King," Friday night and Saturday matinee as Lord Dundreary, and Saturday night as Hamlet.

These widely diversified plays make the Sothern engagement an extraordinary event in social, artistic and dramatic circles. Sothern brings special productions here of all these plays. His scenic accessories are said to be elaborate.

Sothern is supported by a notable company.

COLUMBIA—"The Whirlpool."

The close of the season at the Columbia Theater comes with the week of "The Whirlpool," the new Wagenhals and Kemper Company's production, which begins its Washington engagement a week from Monday night.

This play bids fair to be a brilliant finish of a notable season at this theater. Interest over the production of "The Whirlpool" here is keen. It will bring to Washington several stage favorites. Katherine Grey is one of these and Alma Kruger another. Both are popular here professionally and socially. Other well-known members of the cast are Dorothy Dorr, Charles Waldron, William McVay and Robert Tansey. Messrs. Wagenhals and Kemper are so confident of "The Whirlpool" that they are to place it in New York for a summer run.

NATIONAL—"The Golden Butterfly."

"The Golden Butterfly," De Koven and Smith's comic opera, seen here earlier this season, has been secured for a re-

(Continued on Eleventh Page.)

ACADEMY

Matinee Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.

ALL THIS WEEK

THE COMEDY THAT HAS MADE MILLIONS LAUGH

McFADDEN'S

FLATS

Funny Comedians

Pretty Girls

Gorgeous Scenery

Catchy Music

Novel Specialties

Expert Dancers

EXTRA! EXTRA!

"MANTILLA"

In her famous Grecian Worship

Dance

Next Week

A CHILD OF THE REGIMENT

GRAND CONCERT

TONIGHT

Miller & Miller George Turner

Walter Sondheimler

LIFE MOTION PICTURES

ALL SEATS 25c

CONCERT BY

MUSURGIA

ALL SOULS' CHURCH,

14th & L Sts. N. W.,

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 8 P. M.

Benefit Lend-a-Hand.

Tickets.....Fifty Cents.

NEW

LYCEUM

Smoking Permitted in All Parts of the House.

This Week—Matinee Daily

MINER'S MERRY

BURLESQUERS

With the Ever Popular

HARRY FOX

In a Two-Act Musical Bronze

THE FIXER

With a Group of Beautiful Girls.

ADDED ATTRACTION

Sherman, DeForest

and Company

In the Funniest Act on the Stage.

A JAY CIRCUS

Next Week—"Rugby" Kefauver's Own Show.

WASHINGTON SOCIETY GIRLS.

MASONIC TEMPLE

AUDITORIUM

TONIGHT 8:15 AND ALL WEEK

NEW AND MOTION

PICTURES

Positively the First

Time in this City All Seats, 25c

Columbia

Washington's Leading Theatre

THIS WEEK

TONIGHT AT 8:15 **MR. CLAUDE N. BENNETT**
In a Graphic Talk With Latest Views and Life Motion Pictures of President Taft's Recent Visit to
THE PANAMA CANAL

MONDAY and TUESDAY AT 8:15 **The Calcium Club** Of the GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY AT 8:15 **Mr. Claude N. Bennett** Talk and Life Pictures on
THE PANAMA CANAL

Thursday AT 8:15 **The Grease and Paint Club**

FRIDAY AT 8:15 **Cheviot Dramatic Club**

SATURDAY AT 8:15 **PRINCETON TRIANGLE CLUB**
In their new and original musical comedy,
"THE DUCHESS OF BLUFFSHIRE."
Seats now on sale at Columbia Theater box office.

NEXT WEEK—SEATS SELLING NOW
The Wagenhals & Kemper Co. Presents
The New American Play
by Maximilian Foster.
With a Notable Cast Especially Organized for the New York Run, Including
KATHERINE GREY **CHARLES WALDRON**
DOROTHY DORR **WILLIAM McVAY**
ALMA KRUGER **JOSEPH SLATER**
ROBERT TANSEY

BELASCO

Washington's Playhouse Beautiful

TONIGHT AT 8:15 **FILIPINO BAND**
Popular Prices Complete Change of Programme.

TOMORROW NIGHT AND WEEK **ABOUT THEBES**
A Musical Play by Mrs. Barney

NEXT WEEK—SEATS NOW—MATINEE SATURDAY **MR. E. H. SOTHERN**
MONDAY AND TUESDAY NIGHTS } **RICHELIEU**
First time here of Mr. Sothern's Elaborate Production of Bulwer Lytton's Drama

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY NIGHTS } **IF I WERE KING**
Grand Revival of Mr. Sothern's Most Successful Romantic Play.

FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY MAT. } **LORD DUNDREARY**
Mr. Sothern in Comedy as Presented by His Father for Twenty-five Years.

SATURDAY NIGHT, } **HAMLET**
Mr. Sothern as

NO ADVANCE IN PRICES—Orchestra, \$2;